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To:
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Subject: Morning Clips – Wednesday, April 2, 2013

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Governor Nikki Haley News:

WHNS: Company to invest \$20M in Anderson recycled tire facility

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/25134440/business-to-invest-20m-in-anderson-recyclined-tire-facility>

Joseph Pereira

A manufacturer of recycled tire material is planning to invest \$20 million in the Upstate, according to a release from Gov. Nikki Haley's office. Carbon Resources Recovery, CRR, intends to locate their first North American facility in Anderson County. The facility is expected to create 30 new jobs.

Note: "It speaks volumes to the strength of our state's business environment and skilled workforce when a company like CRR decides to locate its first North American plant here. We applaud CRR's decision to invest \$20 million in our state and create 30 new jobs in Anderson County," Gov. Nikki Haley said in a release.

Fox News: SC bill to make mammoth official state fossil on ice over 'God' amendment

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/04/01/mammoth-bible-south-carolina-state-fossil/>

Stephanie McNeal

A bill fulfilling an 8-year-old girl's wish to designate a type of woolly mammoth as South Carolina's official state fossil has been put on ice after a state senator proposed an amendment declaring God created the animal. Third-grade science enthusiast Olivia McConnell sparked the legislative push for a fossil bill after sending a handwritten letter to Gov. Nikki Haley and two state lawmakers.

S.C. Political News:

Greenville News: DSS cases lead ex-Circuit Judge Tom Ervin to run against Haley

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/make-your-voice-heard/2014/04/01/dss-cases-lead-ex-circuit-judge-tom-ervin-to-run-against-haley-/7190111/>

Ron Barnett

Former Circuit Judge Tom Ervin said he couldn't let Gov. Nikki Haley go unchallenged in the Republican primary when he heard the troubling testimony coming out of Department of Social Services hearings in recent weeks.

Note: Rob Godfrey, Haley's campaign spokesman, responded, "We appreciate Mr. Ervin's desire for public service, but a trial lawyer and former Democratic lawmaker, who wants to raise taxes and embrace Obamacare, should probably be running in the Democratic primary. Gov. Haley is focused on the legislative session, passing historic education and ethics reforms, and keeping the fantastic economic and jobs momentum going."

Post and Courier: Jim Clyburn's Democrat primary challenger is more Republican than Democrat

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140401/PC1610/140409926/1031/jim-clyburns-democrat-primary-challenger-is-more-republican-than-democrat>

Schuyler Kropf

The Dorchester County retiree challenging 11-term incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn in the Democratic primary has a history of voting Republican and describes herself as a "tea partier." But Karen Smith said no one put her up to running and that her main beef is Washington politicians who don't listen to folks back home.

USA Today: Once disgraced, Mark Sanford is unopposed

<http://onpolitics.usatoday.com/2014/03/31/once-disgraced-mark-sanford-is-now-unopposed/>

Paul Singer

Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C., appears to have completed an 18-month transformation from irresistible joke to

immovable incumbent. As governor, he became a staple of late night comedians in 2009 when he famously disappeared from the Statehouse to visit his mistress in Argentina while his staff told reporters he was hiking the Appalachian Trail.

Post and Courier: Ted Cruz spending Tax Day in Charleston

<http://politics.postandcourier.com/2014/04/01/ted-cruz-spending-tax-day-in-charleston/>

Schuyler Kropf

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a potential GOP candidate for president in 2016, will spend Tax Day, April 15 in Charleston. Cruz is the keynote speaker at The Free Enterprise Foundation's Eighth Annual Awards Dinner on Tuesday, April 15th. The group is honoring its "Champions of Free Enterprise."

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

Greenville News: BMW, SC are succeeding together

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/editorials/2014/04/02/bmw-sc-are-succeeding-together/7172385/>

Editorial

BMW transformed South Carolina's economy when it opened its Greer manufacturing plant 20 years ago. The transformation continued last week when the automaker announced an expansion in South Carolina that emphasizes the importance of this one facility to the entire state's economic success.

Post and Courier: Pick up the pace for veterans

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140402/PC1002/140409908/1021/pick-up-the-pace-for-veterans>

Editorial

The enormous backlog of benefits claims that has plagued the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs over the past four years represents a major failure to live up to the promises made to men and women who have worn our nation's military uniforms. It is terrible disservice to veterans, who have a right to expect timely responses to their requests for needed benefits.

Post and Courier: S.C. should ban texting while driving

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140402/PC1002/140409912/1021/>

Editorial

South Carolina is in desperate need of a statewide ban on texting while driving. The state Senate is historically where these bills have stalled, even after they were passed in the House. Today's Senate should be showing leadership and concern for constituents' safety on the roads while restoring public confidence in the legislative process by passing an anti-texting-while-driving bill.

Index-Journal: Drinks and guns still a bad cocktail

<http://www.indexjournal.com/Content/Opinion/Opinion/Article/Drinks-and-guns-still-a-bad-cocktail/8/154/24668>

Editorial

It appears the majority of bar owners and owners of restaurants that serve alcohol in and around Greenwood are OK with recently signed legislation that allows gun owners who also possess state-issued concealed weapons permits to carry their weapons inside their establishments. At least, that is the gist of a story the Index-Journal published Tuesday.

Times and Democrat: ACA leaves local situation much the same

http://thetandd.com/news/opinion/aca-leaves-local-situation-much-the-same/article_e9f363e2-ba23-11e3-8846-001a4bcf887a.html

Editorial

As people around the country raced to sign up for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, critics on Monday continued to cite the failure of President Barack Obama's signature legislation and proponents looked to close out the first round of sign-ups under ACA with eyes on fixing glitches before the next open enrollment in November.

Legislative Session News:

The State: SC House: Sex-ed classes should be medically accurate, not just focusing on abstinence

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/01/3362520/sc-house-sex-ed-classes-should.html#storylink=cpy>

Jamie Self

SC school students should get medically accurate information about sex and health, a state House committee decided Tuesday. The proposal is part of a push to update the state's 26-year-old health-and-sex education law that has pitted advocates of teaching abstinence only, now emphasized in classrooms, against those who say students need to learn ways to prevent pregnancy and disease.

The State: 18 months after breach, SC agencies still have no consistent security plan
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/02/3362943/18-months-after-breach-sc-agencies.html>

Cassie Cope, Andrew Shain

Nearly 18 months after hackers stole financial information belonging to 6.4 million S.C. taxpayers and businesses, state agencies still have no consistent plan for securing data, officials told a state Senate hearing Tuesday. In response, some senators said they want to make cyber-security mandatory for state agencies.

Seneca Journal: House members react to latest hurdle cleared by bill
<https://upstatetoday.com/2014/04/house-members-react-to-latest-hurdle-cleared-by-bill/>

Greg Oliver

A bill aimed at toughening the punishment for DUI offenders has passed the South Carolina House Judiciary Committee and is expected to go to the floor of the full House this week. Named "Emma's Law," the bill would require those convicted of DUI with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.15 or higher to install an ignition interlock on their car.

The State: Business owners step out in support of Emma's Law
<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/01/3362243/business-owners-step-out-in-support.html#storylink=cpy>

John Monk

As Emma's Law – a bill that is the first significant effort in years to curb the state's soaring drunken driving deaths – moved toward a state House floor showdown Wednesday, signs and bumper stickers were everywhere. And businesses in Lexington County and at least one in Richland, including Lexington's Marty Rae's furniture store, are displaying messages on their stores' marquees, urging the bill's passage.

Greenville News: Solar bill clears Senate committee hurdle
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/environment/our-natural-beauty/2014/04/01/solar-bill-clears-senate-committee-hurdle/7178433/>

Nathaniel Cary

A bill that would make solar power available to more South Carolinians to put on their rooftops or install at their businesses wound its way through a Senate committee Tuesday on its way to a debate on the Senate floor. The bill, a collaborative effort between utilities, conservationists, solar business groups and electric cooperatives, was given a favorable report by a 19-1 vote from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

WIS: Bill would require more health tests for school employees
<http://www.wistv.com/story/25133034/bill-would-require-more-health-tests-for-school-employees>

PJ Randhawa

It was one of the largest tuberculosis outbreaks in recent state history and it struck at an Upstate elementary school just last summer. On Monday, lawmakers moved a bill forward that would require all public school employees to have a clean bill of health.

Anderson Independent: S.C. Senate panel praises state retirement investment agency
<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/01/sc-senate-panel-praises-state-retirement-agency/?partner=RSS>

Kirk Brown

Members of a South Carolina Senate panel offered praise Tuesday for an agency overseeing \$27 billion in retirement investments while criticizing the actions of state Treasurer Curtis Loftis. The board members and staff at the South Carolina Retirement System Investment Commission "have got a lot of integrity," said Sen. Ray Cleary, a Republican from Murrells Inlet.

Greenville News: State pension commission cleared of wrongdoing
<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/make-your-voice-heard/2014/04/01/senate-panel-to-issue-report-today-on-state-investment-commission/7152767/>

Tim Smith

A special Senate subcommittee looking at the state's \$28 billion pension fund says while it isn't comfortable with last year's payment of more than \$420 million in investment fees, it understands the reasoning behind them.

Associated Press: SC panel: Expanded pension board could ease fears

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=pAbo2vzb

Seanna Adcox

A Senate panel recommended Tuesday adding members to the board that invests South Carolina's pension portfolio to help ease public employees' concerns about how their retirement money's being handled.

Post and Courier: S.C. Senate panel passes gambling, unwelcome library patrons bills

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140401/PC1603/140409920/1031/sc-senate-panel-passes-gambling-unwelcome-library-patrons-bills>

Jeremy Borden

An 1800s-era South Carolina law that led to state police cracking down on a retirement community's card and dice games may see a change under a bill that passed a Senate panel on Tuesday. The S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee also passed a bill that would crack down on unruly library patrons.

Post and Courier: Resolution that orders study at deadly Charleston intersection heads to the House floor

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140401/PC1603/140409905/1031/resolution-that-orders-study-at-deadly-charleston-intersection-heads-to-the-house-floor>

Cynthia Roldan

A resolution that would order a study into the feasibility of building an overpass at Coming Street and the Crosstown is one step closer to passing, after a House panel sent it to the floor on Tuesday. The resolution - introduced by Rep. Wendell Gilliard, D-Charleston, and inspired by the deaths of two 21-year-old College of Charleston students who were killed 14 months apart attempting to cross the highway.

South Carolina News:

Greenville News: BMW rides X series to strong US sales

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/money/2014/04/02/bmw-rides-x-series-to-strong-us-sales/7190571/>

Woody White

BMW said strong sales of its SUVs assembled in the Upstate helped push the automaker's U.S. sales up 7.9 percent for March. The German company said its domestic dealers sold 8,896 X models during the month, 21.6 percent more than they sold in March 2013. BMW reported total sales of 33,149 vehicles (BMW and MINI combined) for the month, including 32,107 BMW brand cars.

Anderson Independent: Official: Irish manufacturer could have \$400M ripple effect in Upstate

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2014/apr/01/official-irish-manufacturer-could-have-400m-in/?partner=RSS>

Nikie Mayo

If an Irish manufacturer of electrical components is enticed to build its first U.S. plant in Anderson County, that project could have a \$400 million ripple effect in the region over the course of the next two decades, officials said Tuesday. Burriss Nelson, Anderson County's economic development director, said the code-named "Project Current" would generate at least 250 jobs, but company leaders have a goal of creating 500 jobs within the first five years of opening an operation in the Upstate.

The State: SRS makes breakthrough in hydrogen batteries

<http://www.thestate.com/2014/04/01/3362304/srs-makes-breakthrough-in-hydrogen.html>

Jeff Wilkinson

Researchers at Savannah River National Laboratory in Aiken are developing new fuel production methods that will make hydrogen batteries cheaper – a super-battery technology that could keep portable electronic and communications devices charged as much as four times longer than traditional batteries.

Post and Courier: Donors concerned about College of Charleston presidential search process; Faculty Senate votes "no confidence in board"

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20140401/PC16/140409903/1177/donors-concerned-about-college-of-charleston-presidential-search-process-faculty-senate-votes-no-confidence-in-board>

Diane Knich

Within hours of the College of Charleston's Board of Trustees announcing it would hire Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell as the school's next president, Bill Asbill fired off an email resigning his position as a member of the college's Foundation Board, and declaring he no longer would donate to the school.

Times and Democrat: 'Teach for America' program helping close inequity gap between poorer, more affluent schools

http://thetandd.com/news/local/teach-for-america-program-helping-close-inequity-gap-between-poorer/article_0afe3614-ba21-11e3-9297-001a4bcf887a.html

Dale Linder-Altman

Fifth-graders at Sheridan Elementary School don't get bored in Nicholas Boatwright's math class. He holds their attention through continual interplay with them and careful organization of class time. And in spite of the fact that students work with partners, the class remains under control and focused on work.

Local News:

Greenville News: Greenville community to brainstorm on ways to end homelessness

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/2014/04/01/greenville-community-to-brainstorm-on-ways-to-end-homelessness/7189857/>

Lyn Riddle

Tonight, she'll be a table leader at a town hall meeting during which organizers hope a true community effort to end homelessness will begin. The meeting is sponsored by A Year of Altruism, which has spent almost a year focused on exploring what people can do to help others without expecting anything in return.

Florence Morning News: Officials say millage rate necessary for West Florence under unified fire district proposal

http://www.scnow.com/news/politics/article_0931238c-ba12-11e3-bd35-0017a43b2370.html

Gavin Jackson

It was relatively quiet Tuesday at West Florence Fire Department Station One, despite nearly two hours of talk about the proposed, unified fire district in Florence County. Then a call came in. The station's speakers in the apparatus bay, where some 40 people were gathered, blared a report of car fire.

National News:

Washington Post: Large employers see costs from Obamacare

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/04/01/large-employers-see-costs-from-obamacare/>

Jason Millman

Large companies, including Fortune 500 firms, expect to face costs between \$4,800 and \$5,900 per worker over the next decade from provisions in President Barack Obama's signature health care law, according to a new think tank that represents those corporations.

Reuters: U.S. insurers fear backlash over new Obamacare rate increases

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/04/01/us-summit-rates-idUKBREA301UR20140401>

Caroline Humer, David Morgan

As the first Obamacare enrollment period comes to a close, U.S. insurers are already anticipating the need to raise prices for 2015 and fear that it will put them at the center of the political blame game over President Barack Obama's healthcare law.

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